

Clinical Laboratory Update

March 2020

www.milwaukee.gov/healthlab

Phone: (414) 286-3526

Fax: (414) 286-5098

From the desk of the Public Health Laboratory Director

COVID-19 Testing Updates

The Milwaukee Health Department Laboratory (MHDL) continues to offer *fee-exempt* COVID-19 testing, utilizing the CDC 2019-nCoV real-time RT-PCR Diagnostic Panel under an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) from the Food and Drug Administration. We are currently able to test "Category A" specimens according to Wisconsin DHS guidance (WI COVID-19 Patient Information Form).

For guidance on collecting and submitting specimens to MHDL, please refer to our COVID-19 testing instructions, which are updated routinely on our website at www.milwaukee.gov/healthlab.

Details on COVID-19 testing performed by MHDL during the month of March, including total tests performed and positive cases reported by ZIP code and other demographic information, is included as a supplement to this report. For more information and data on the current COVID-19 situation in Milwaukee, visit: www.milwaukee.gov/Coronavirus.

Recognizing Public Health & Medical Laboratory Professionals

With National Public Health Week upon us and Medical Laboratory Professionals Week coming up later this month, MHDL would like to recognize our employees for their dedicated service. In the midst of COVID-19 response, their work, as well as that of the entire MHD and our partners, is more important than ever. Thank you all for the work that you do and the vital role you play in safeguarding the health of our community during the COVID-19 outbreak, and every day.

Sexually Transmitted Infections

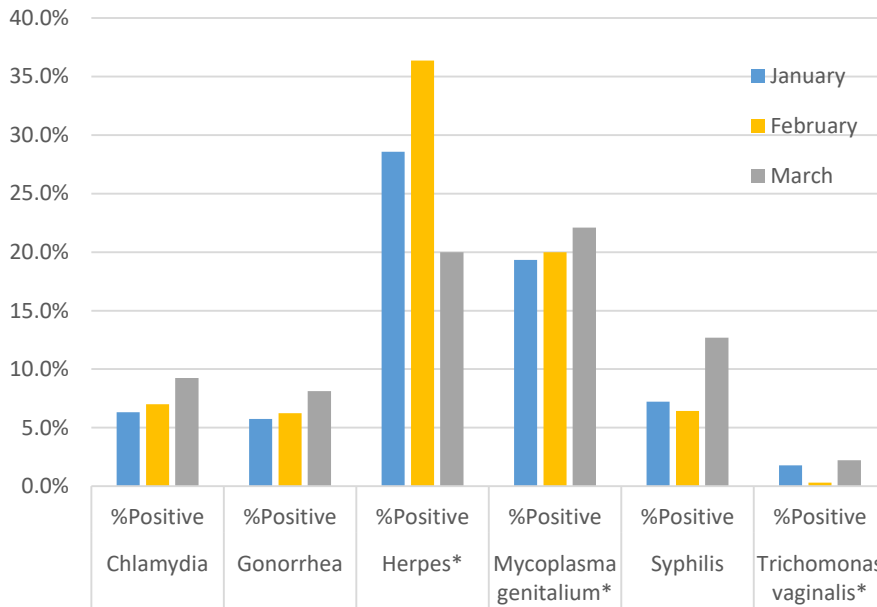


Figure 1: Percent positivity for specimens screened using molecular or serological assays for the given organism.

*Not reportable as per WI DHS 145.04 (3) (a)

Other Respiratory Infections

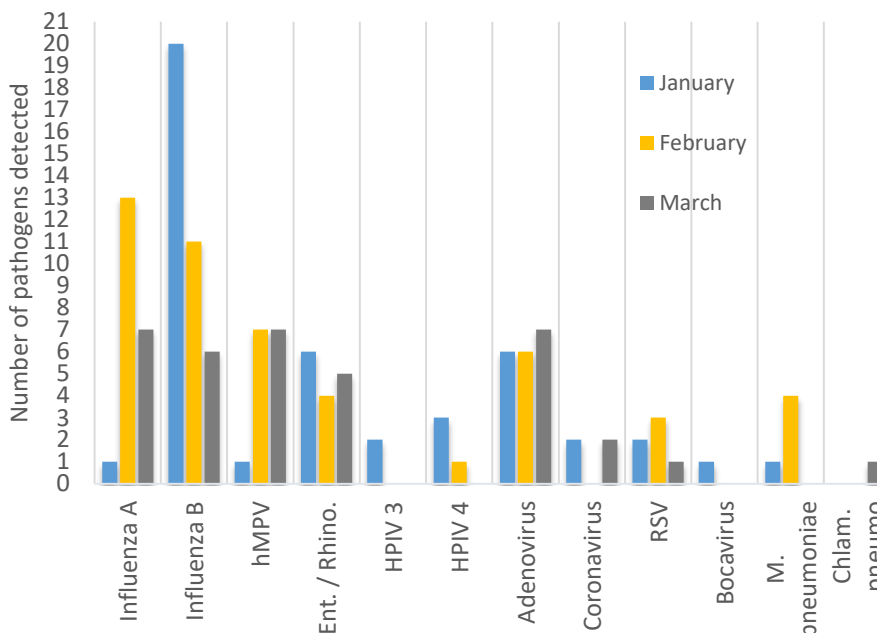


Figure 2: Respiratory pathogens detected using a Respiratory Pathogen Panel (RPP) and/or RT-PCR Influenza assay.

Connect with your
health department:



Links to related reports:

[MHD SurvNet](#)

[WSLH Laboratory Surveillance Report](#)

[WI DHS Respiratory Virus Surveillance Report](#)

New HIV Infections

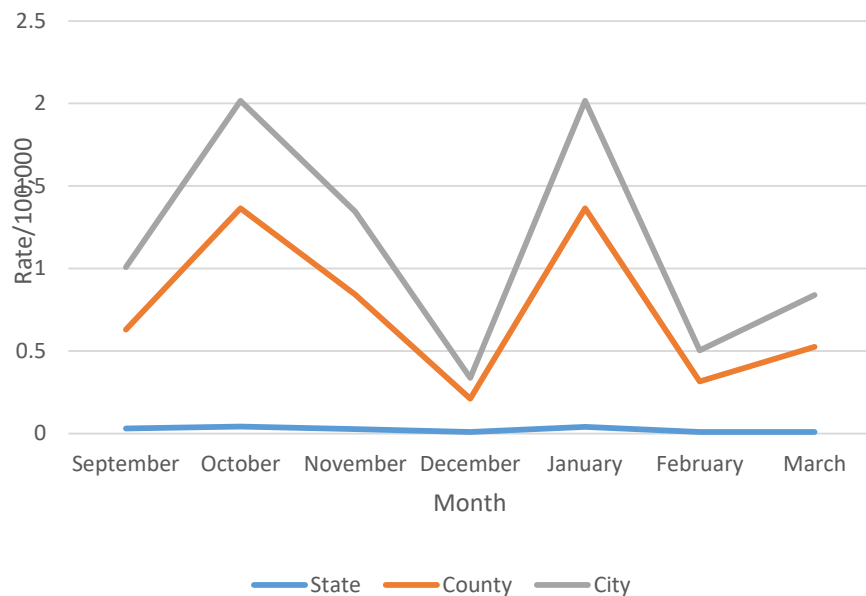


Figure 3: Monthly comparison of rate of new HIV infections in the state of Wisconsin, Milwaukee County, and City of Milwaukee, using state- and county-level data obtained from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services.

For more statewide HIV data, visit: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/hiv/data.htm>.

Syphilis Surveillance

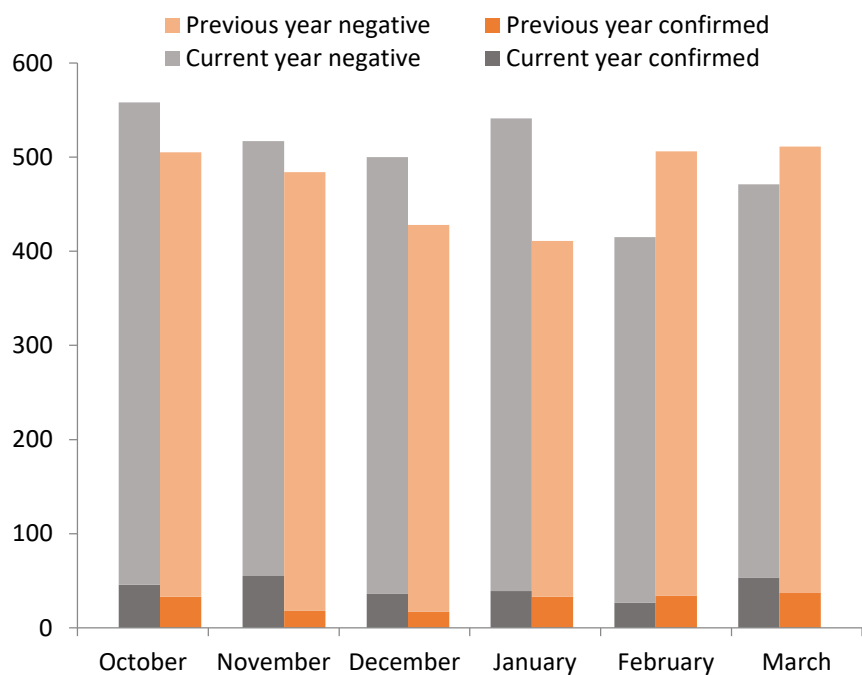


Figure 4: Monthly comparison of syphilis data with year over year comparisons.

Number of specimens screened at MHD, darker bars represent confirmed tests.

Gonorrhea Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing

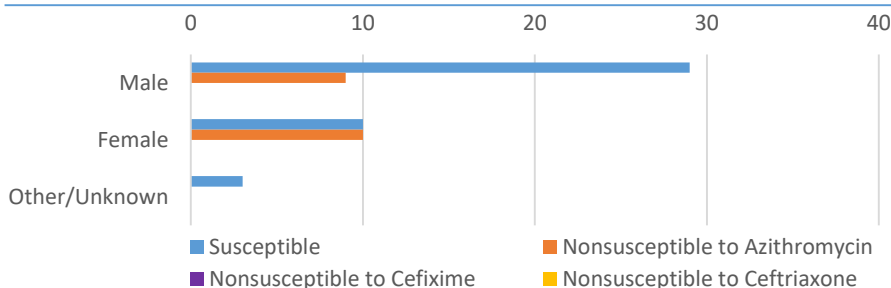


Figure 5: Antibiotic susceptibility profile of Gonorrhea isolates identified in males and females. In March 2020, 19 of 61 cultures tested were found to be nonsusceptible to Azithromycin according to CLSI guidelines. MHD tests for antibiotic resistance to Azithromycin, Ceftriaxone, Cefixime and Gentamicin.

Sexually Transmitted Infections by Source

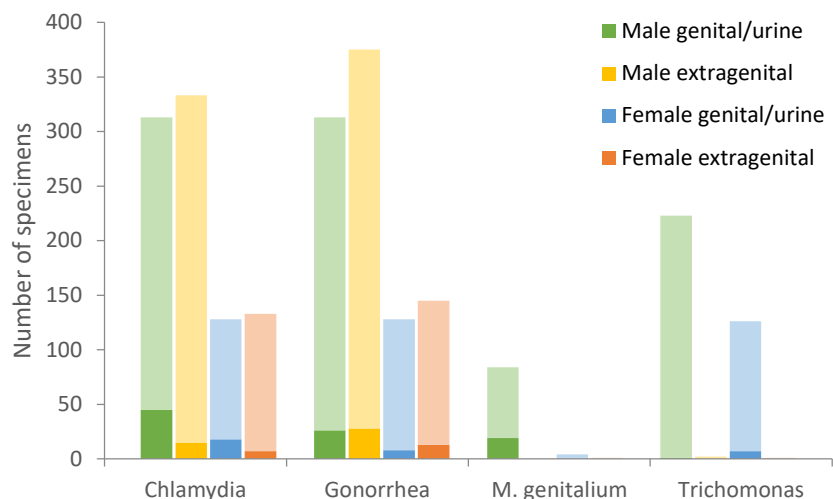


Figure 6: Distribution of STIs detected using NAAT. In March 2020, 9.3% of male and 9.6% of female specimens screened were positive for Chlamydia. 7.8% of male and 7.7% of female specimens were positive for Gonorrhea. 22.6% of male and 0 of the 5 female specimens were positive for *M. genitalium*. 0.4% of male specimens and 5.5% of female specimens were positive for *Trichomonas*.

Note: Darker bars indicate positive specimens.

Viral surveillance

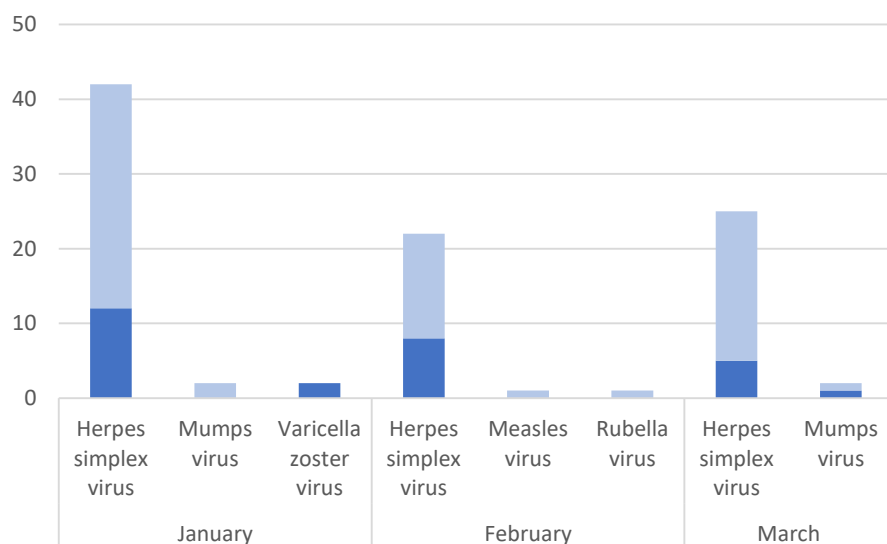


Figure 7: Specimens tested using molecular methods.

Note: Height of bar indicates number of specimens tested.

Darker bars indicate DNA/RNA detected by virus culture, real-time PCR and/or nucleotide sequencing analysis.

Legionella Testing

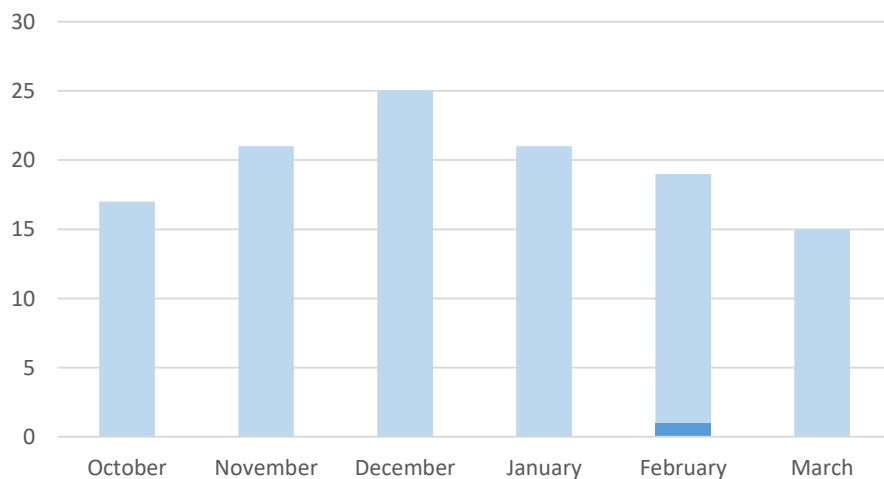


Figure 8: Clinical specimens tested using culture and molecular methods.

*MHDL is one of the **CDC ELITE** certified sites for environmental *Legionella* testing. See the Winter 2019 issue of the [APHL Bridges newsletter](#) for more information.

Note: Darker bars indicate confirmed Legionella pneumophila by culture and/or real-time PCR.